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Service should have an opportunity of admission into the Indian Forest Service, has already been achieved and nothing more remains to be done. Mr. Devadas says that ultimately they should be given an opportunity of becoming Conservators. The decisions of the Government of India and the Secretary of State have reserved that opportunity. I will read the relevant portion. 'Officers promoted from the Provincial to the Imperial Service * * * will be eligible for promotion to administrative rank equally with directly recruited members of Imperial Service.' This being so, Sir, I fail to see what conceivable grievance there can be on the part of members of the Provincial Forest Service. There is no question of reserving particular appointments for officers of a particular race. I should like to emphasize that, once in the Imperial Forest Service, promotion to the administrative rank depends and must always depend upon ability and not upon race. I have just stated that all the Extra Deputy Conservators on the list have already been transferred to the Imperial Service. What then would be the effect of reserving for members of the Provincial Forest Service these two posts of Conservator, which, I may say in passing, have already been filled up by selection? The result would be that the Government would have either to keep those two posts vacant or to appoint to them officers who have been definitely refused any further promotion for incompetence or officers of less than nine years' service, quite junior and quite unfit to hold the post of Conservator. That is a *reductio ad absurdum*. In the light of my remarks I hope the honourable member will not press the resolution."

Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas :—"I have the latest list of Forest Officers here and I do not see the transfer of the Extra Deputy Conservators as mentioned. They still remain in a separate part of the list."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"Whether their names appear in a separate part of the list or not it is a fact that they have come into the Imperial Forest Service."

The Hon'ble the President :—"Does the honourable member wish to press his resolution?"

Rai Sahib E. C. M. Mascarenhas :—"In view of what the Hon'ble the Home Member has said I withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

*Flood ventways near Chidambaram.*

Mr. A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar :—'Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

'13. *That this Council recommends to the Government that the South Indian Railway Company be moved to construct two or three flood ventways near Chidambaram and Varkalpet railway stations in order to protect them against floods.*'

"Sir, I move this resolution with the object of removing the great hardships felt, in the rainy season, by the people who travel by train and also by those who possess lands in the western side of the railway lines. I take Chidambaram. There is a channel called Palaman. It is between the town and the station. In the rainy season the water in the channel overflows on the road on both sides of the railway bridge, so that traffic between the station and the town ceases for more than 12 hours or for 15 hours during the time of the floods. Last year there was no traffic for more than 36 hours. As an instance I may say that I myself suffered during the last flood. I went to Chidambaram one morning and found that there was no traffic from the station to the town and that some of

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the passengers were wading to the town with the help of others. Water was knee-deep in the station compound. I also went along with the people and stayed in the town for nearly three hours. By that time some one told me that water was rising in the Palaman channel. So I returned at once and found that the water was 3 or 4 feet above the level of the road. I reached the station with the help of three persons. In the station there were many passengers waiting to go into the town. There was no train for any one to go to any place. As there were no flood ventways on the southern and northern sides of the railway line, there were some breaches. There were so many people at the station starving and I myself starved for 24 hours. I returned to my place only the next morning. Because there is only one channel, the water cannot go away in other directions. Water stagnates in the streets and it is 2 or 3 feet above the level of the road. I think this is dangerous to the houses. Water stagnating in the fields damages the crops. The condition near Varkalpet is also the same. There is the Gadilam river near this station. The water overflows on the railway lines, because there is not a sufficient number of flood ventways there, and the lines are 2 or 3 feet under water. This year all the trains had to stop at Varkalpet railway station for more than 10 hours and I had also to suffer in this connexion. I saw passengers suffering from want of water to drink. I think that in some places 500 or 600 acres of land have had their crops washed away. I therefore appeal to this House to pass the resolution unanimously."

Mr. V. Appaswami Vandayar :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to second the resolution. The recent floods have caused great havoc. A big breach near Tiruvalandur and Sholavandam stopped the Boat Mail for several hours. On account of that a great hardship and a great loss was caused on all sides. Not only the southern portion of the railway line has been damaged, but a good lot of dry crops have been washed away. I therefore think that waterways are necessary and hope that Government will have no objection to accept this resolution."

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson :—"I am afraid, Sir, I have no knowledge of this resolution whatsoever except what has been told us by the two gentlemen who have just been speaking. Owing to some error in Secretariat procedure or the procedure of the Legislative Council Office, I was not aware that this resolution had been tabled. I have not received any papers at all. But the general issue is fairly simple, Sir. The attitude which the Government must take up towards such a resolution is that, if a specific complaint, backed up by specific evidence of real loss and damage at particular places, is brought forward, they will either themselves examine that complaint or bring it to the notice of the South Indian Railway administration. Being entirely unprepared, I am not able to give chapter and verse. But I think if the honourable mover will refer to the Indian Railways Act, he will observe that in the case of railways which have been in existence for a long time, there is a special reservation which prevents the railway authorities from being under legal obligation to find additional waterways in respect of parts of the line which have been in existence for more than ten years. I forget exactly which section it is. The general procedure in regard to the construction of new railways is that the Government Inspector, who is not a servant of the Local Government, inspects and certifies to the sufficiency of the waterways provided. That gives some opportunity of ensuring that reaonable provision is made at the outset. I do not say that the provision is always adequate. Floods of unprecedented extent sometimes occur and I believe, Sir, that I am right in saying that the floods which caused damage in January last were almost without precedent. If the waterways are not sufficient and if the vents have been in existence for more than

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ten years, however, there is no obligation on the part of the railway. What I would ask of the honourable mover and the seconder, therefore, Sir, is to furnish me separately with a precise statement of the locality which they consider to be the scene of special damage with some indication, as precise as they can make it, of the steps necessary to prevent the recurrence of such trouble. I shall then be happy either to investigate it with the help of the officers of Government or to bring it to the notice of the South Indian Railway administration."

Mr. A. T. Muttukumaraswami Chettiyar :—"In view of the assurance of the Hon'ble the Home Member I withdraw the resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of M.R.Ry. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar was deemed to have been withdrawn under Standing Order No. 56 as the member was not present :—

*Translation of assessees' accounts into Vernacular.*

"14. *This Council recommends to the Government the immediate withdrawal of rule* 17 (*a*) *added to the rules published in the Financial* (*Separate Revenue*) *Department Notification No.* 23, *dated* 28*th May* 1918, *and published as a notification, dated* 25*th March* 1920, *requiring the production by assessees to income-tax of a true translation of their accounts, if they are not maintained either in English or in one of the vernaculars of the Presidency such as Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kanarese and Oriya.*"

The Hon'ble the President :—"The Council will now adjourn and meet at 11 a.m. on the 21st instant."

The Council then adjourned until 11 a.m. on Monday the 21st instant.

L. D. SWAMIKANNU,
*Secretary to the Legislative Council.*

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TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS